

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

2 Electrostatic capacitance measurements are used to detect chemical or
3 biological analytes, or chemical interactions, with great sensitivity. A diaphragm is
4 coated with a material capable of selectively interacting with an analyte of interest, and
5 interaction of the analyte with the coating exerts stresses tangential to the diaphragm's
6 surface. These stresses cause diaphragm displacements that are sensed as varying
7 capacitance.

8
9